

to families in need. Each Christmas, the parish supports at least one family in the community with gifts, food, financial assistance, and love.

In 1997, St. Innocent Orthodox Church found a permanent home, and consecrated its new church structure in Olmsted Falls, Ohio.

St. Innocent welcomes the diversity of its parish and combines many ethnic traditions into its services. I am confident that the growing parish family will flourish, and that the many services and activities it sponsors will continue to multiply.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION COMMENDING AFGHAN WOMEN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative BIGGERT and I introduce legislation to commend Afghan women for their participation in Afghan government and civil society and to advocate for the inclusion of women's rights in the Afghan constitution.

Women's rights in Afghanistan have fluctuated greatly over the years. Women have bravely fought the forces of extremism at various points in the country's turbulent history. At one time, women were scientists and university professors. They led corporations and nonprofit organizations in local communities.

As the constitution review process goes forward, the women of Afghanistan should have a stake in the future of their country. We must support the efforts of the Afghan women to require that the constitution of Afghanistan includes equal rights for women. If women are left out of the constitution, they will disappear from public and civic life. Afghanistan has the opportunity to begin a new chapter by rejecting the ways of the Taliban, and embracing democracy, including the right to vote for all its citizens. I believe that the United States should support these efforts in every possible way.

I look forward to working with Representative BIGGERT and my other colleagues to pass this resolution and to fight for the rights of women in Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO ROY J. NICHOLS FOR RECEIVING THE 2003 ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION HUMANITARIAN AWARD

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Roy Nichols of Huntsville for receiving the 2003 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award. This award is given annually to a citizen of Huntsville and Madison County Alabama who has displayed exemplary community leadership.

Mr. Nichols moved to Huntsville in 1973 as an employee of the McDonnell Douglas Corporation. In 1976, Mr. Nichols formed his own company, Nichols Research Corporation, a research and development business specializing in sensor, missile and information systems.

Under the leadership of Mr. Nichols, his company quickly became known as a national leader, receiving numerous awards as one of the best small companies in the United States.

Mr. Nichols retired from Nichols Research after it merged with the Computer Sciences Corporation in 1999. Today, Mr. Nichols is the Co-Chairman and CEO of Torch Concepts, a company that specializes in content management and information mining. Torch Concepts is helping the Department of the Army identify terrorist threats and is becoming widely known for its development of technology that helps in the fight against terrorism.

More importantly, in addition to his professional duties, Mr. Nichols has vigorously committed his time volunteering for many civic organizations in the North Alabama region.

Mr. Speaker, Roy Nichols' leadership and his strong dedication to the community should serve as a model for everyone to follow. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the people of North Alabama, to congratulate Roy Nichols for being named the 2003 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award winner.

NORTHWEST INDIANA'S MOST TALENTED, DEDICATED, AND HARDWORKING INDIVIDUALS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and admiration that I offer congratulations to many of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Saturday, October 11, 2003, Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 20, formerly also Local No. 303, will honor distinguished members at their 100th Anniversary Open House and Awards Banquet at the Local Gary Area Training Facility in Portage, Indiana. These individuals will be recognized for their many years of dedication and service to Northwest Indiana with 25-year and 40-year pins. The 2003 Sheet Metal Workers Apprentice Graduates will also be honored at this special event.

The Sheet Metal Workers will celebrate tenures ranging from 25 years to 40 years of service. The member being honored for 40 years of committed service is Mr. Walter Biser. Members being honored for 25 years of service include: Mr. Larry Alumbaugh, Mr. Lon Baczkowski, Mr. John Camplan, Mr. Elmer Dellenbach, Jr., Mr. Frank Duffy, Mr. Phillip Felling, Mr. Jeffrey Fitzgerald, Mr. Mark Fusak, Mr. Wyleania Gaither, Mr. Donald Hammond, Mr. Robert Hostinsky, Mr. Mark Katona, Mr. Ronald Kersey, Mr. Jay Kimmel, Sr., Mr. Philip Lukasik, Mr. Steven Nelson, Mr. David Noltbertowicz, Mr. Bruce Pollock, Mr. Mark Remlinger, Mr. Jack Rizzo, Mr. Dalia Salina, Mr. James Salmi, Mr. David Thomas, Mr. Timothy Weaver, and Mr. Walton Woodard.

The Sheet Metal Workers will also be recognizing and honoring the 2003 Apprentice Graduates. These individuals are Mr. Robert Alvarez, III, Mr. Jared Benavides, Mr. Richard Blackmon, Mr. Sam Bodish, Mr. Aaron Burkhardt, Mr. Steve Claussen, Mr. Dave Finnerty, Mr. Jeff Fryar, Mr. Terence Henney, Jr., Mr. Shaun Janis, Mr. Jason Johnson, Mr. Mike King, Mr. Richard Kvarta, Mr. Brian

Meeks, Mr. Jeff Myres, Mr. Dave Polen, Mr. Jason Reis, Mr. Todd Ribar, Mr. Jesse Rippe, Mr. Mark Robbins, Mr. Josh Skalba, Mr. Art Stahl, Mr. Eric Szczudlak, Mr. Chris Truman, Mr. Tim Vandermeer, Mr. Robert Vigland, and Mr. John Worline.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these hardworking and honorable members of the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 20. These individuals, along with all the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, have contributed to the growth and development to the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to fight for and honor them in Washington, D.C.

PROVIDING PRIMARY AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation which would allow states and localities to provide primary and preventive health care services to undocumented residents.

An analysis by the Center for Immigration Studies of the Current Population Survey collected in March of 2002 by the Census Bureau indicates that 33.1 million immigrants live in the United States. Among those an estimate of 9 million are undocumented residents and about 900,000 are persons on long-term temporary visas, such as students and temporary workers.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) prohibits public hospitals from providing free or discounted preventive service to undocumented immigrants—even if they pay for such services with State or local funds. PRWORA does, however, allow public hospitals to provide emergency room services.

This system has created a crisis in our nation's emergency rooms. Because undocumented residents cannot afford to see the doctor for routine physicals and preventive medicine, they arrive in the emergency room with costlier, often preventable, health problems. The Federation for American Immigration Reform estimates that 29 percent of this population uses hospital and other emergency services in a given year, compared to the 11 percent use by the general U.S. population.

The costs of this broken system are especially burdensome for our nation's public hospitals. According to the Congressional Research Service, undocumented residents cost Texas taxpayers, insurance companies, and patients more than \$173,072,108 million in 2001. Since the federal government is wholly responsible for establishing immigration policy, and for policing the borders to keep out unauthorized aliens, shouldn't the federal government pay for immigration related health care costs? Unfortunately, federal Allotments for State Emergency Health Services to attend to unauthorized residents are not enough to help with the cost, so stats are forced to shoulder as much as 50 percent of the costs.

Mr. Speaker, people should not enter any nation illegally. But I cannot understand a